



December 30, 2016

Sent via electronic mail

Michael J. Lincoln
Otter Creek Coal, LLC
1 City Place Drive, Ste 300
St. Louis, MO 63141

Permit ID: X2011334
Revision Type: Bond Release
Permitting Action: Determination
Subject: Acceptability Determination; Bond Release Application #SL1

Dear Mike:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received Bond Release Application #SL1 on October 10, 2016. DEQ reviewed the application and inspected the application area with regard to the requirements in ARM 17.24.1017. Application #SL1 is a request for full bond release on 111 drill holes. Otter Creek Coal, LLC, notified individuals and agencies consistent with ARM 17.24.1017(2)(b), and a public notice of the application was published weekly in the Powder River Examiner, beginning November 3, 2016 and ending November 10, 2016. No objection, comment, or request for hearing or informal conference concerning the application was received.

Pursuant to ARM 17.24.1017(5) and to confirm that the requirements for partial and/or final bond release had been met, DEQ conducted an inspection of the lands specified in Application #SL1 on November 8 and 9, 2016. Individuals participating in the inspection were David Adair (DEQ) and Michael Lincoln (Otter Creek Coal). Based upon the field inspections and the review of the application, DEQ has determined that the permittee has fulfilled the requirements for full bond release on 111 drill holes pursuant to ARM 17.24.1017. DEQ approves the release of \$21,000 in bond (pending a 30-day final notice to the municipality or county in which the permit area is located pursuant to ARM 17.24.1114).

If you have any questions or comments about this acceptability determination please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert A. Smith".

Robert Smith, Permit Coordinator
Coal Section
Coal and Opencut Mining Bureau
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